REACTIONS TO MURDER OF FOGEL FAMILY, HY”D (Hashem yinakem damam)



FROM ISRAEL NATIONAL NEWS: <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/142874>

**Land for Peace:**

Rabbi Elyakim Levanon expressed great impatience with voices from abroad that say, “What are they doing in Itamar in the first place? If they weren't there, they wouldn’t get killed.” The rabbi said, “Perhaps we should say the same about Israel altogether: If we weren't here in this country, there wouldn’t be any wars!  Let’s go back to the Diaspora – as if no Jews were ever murdered in our years in the Exile! To say now that it’s our fault for being here is not only small-minded and short-sighted, but also evil…

**WHICH ONE IS BEST REACTION?**

**STAY**? This is our home and our inheritance, and we must continue building, and Itamar must become a city and a new center in the Shomron.”

**OR GO?** “After all, many in Israel also feel that we should not remain in Yesha…(Yesha is an acronym for the areas of Yehuda (in and surrounding Jerusalem), Shomron (the West Bank) and Aza (which is now devoid of Jewish people).”

**This is how CNN reported the Fogel murder:**

The report by Kevin Flower, which appeared on CNN’s website, was titled ‘Israeli family of 5 killed in ‘terror attack’, military says’. The quotes around the words “terror attack” suggested that there is a doubt that the massacre in Itamar was indeed an act of terrorism.   
  
The body of the report said: “Five members of an Israeli family were killed in the West Bank early Saturday morning in what the Israeli military is calling a ‘terror attack.’   
  
“According to a military spokeswoman, an intruder entered the Israeli settlement of Itamar near the northern West Bank city of Nablus around 1 am, made his way into a family home and killed two parents and their three children.”

**Retribution and Punishment:**

Israel should implement the death penalty for terrorist murderers, says a terror victims organization after the brutal [terrorist slaughter](http://trailer.web-view.net/Links/0X86F4BD1E1105AA03B09D255D14E0B5D879DBABA22496AFB6DD8700FCF896E58C817724E4C1516DED8455C7D21BF651A09581C1D34720BF51FB6660AFFA374CEC.htm)of parents and children at Itamar, in Samaria, Friday night.   
  
The Almagor Terror Victims Organization, headed by retired IDF Lieutenant-Colonel Meir [Indor](http://trailer.web-view.net/Links/0X14B52F28292D31FDD12DF500F65C4F4C627EDF25BA091CA93AD326DCD5999E19423FFBD97030CD038455C7D21BF651A09581C1D34720BF51FB6660AFFA374CEC.htm" \t "_blank), also called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to replace Defense Minister Ehud Barak and halt the process of handing responsibility for Israelis' security over to the Palestinian Authority.

What is needed now is not promises to capture the murderers, since the government regularly considers the release of terrorist murderers, holding discussions of how many and which murderers to release in a deal with Hamas," said Dr. Aryeh Bachrach, a bereaved father of a youth killed by Arab terrorists.   
  
"What is needed is a categorical change in how these crimes are punished, and first and foremost a mandatory death penalty,” he stated. "This is both morally appropriate and efficient in terms of security, since other types of punishment are compromised by gestures and deals in which terrorists are freed, and by unreasonably good prison conditions for terrorists.”   
  
Previous research by Almagor has revealed that terrorists released from prison, often as “goodwill” measures to Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, [returned to terror](http://trailer.web-view.net/Links/0XF6A8FDC185DBE8D5BB66133B225F3BDFCF3253EF0795EFA6394AB1602F4AA036DA7C60778468B6758455C7D21BF651A09581C1D34720BF51FB6660AFFA374CEC.htm) and killed more than 150 Israeli civilians and soldiers.  Read this article for more information: <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/121845>

David Horowitz, conservative commentator, author and founder of FrontPage Mag web site, stated last week, before the murders: "If you disarm the Palestinians in the Middle East there will be peace, but if you disarm the Jews, there will be further death and destruction.”

**Land for Peace: Please answer the following questions based on the articles above.**

In reaction to the murder of the Fogel family, the two divided camps have reinforced their opinions about this age old concept which we have studied regarding trading Land for Peace.

1. **What is the problem some people claim (called ‘the leftist camp’) in remaining in areas such as Itamar, in the West Bank, where the Fogels lived? Where do they feel Israelis SHOULD live? Explain fully.**
2. **What is the reason some people claim Israelis must REMAIN and FURTHER BUILD AND DEVELOP (called the ‘right wing’ camp) areas such as Itamar, in the West Bank?**
3. **What do YOU think? Why?**

**CNN’s report:**

1. **What is wrong with CNN’s report?**
2. **If the opposite were true, and an Israeli had broken into an Arab gated community, and stabbed three children and their parents while asleep, how do you think international news would differ in their reporting of the incident? How? Explain.**
3. **Can you imagine an Israeli committing this barbaric act? Explain!**
4. **What is wrong with world media that is afraid to penalize Arab barabarism?**

**Retribution and Punishment: Please answer the following questions about retribution and punishment:**

1. **What is the current form of punishment for captured terrorists?**
2. **What sometimes happens to them later on?**
3. **What is the Almagor organization suggesting should be the terrorists’ punishment?**
4. **Why?**
5. **What is the Biblical response to murder? שופך דם האדם באדם דמו ישפך – from where did we learn this pasuk and how can we apply it to the concept of terrorism?**
6. **Name another instance in Tanach when people (Jews OR non-Jews) were killed because of their wrong actions – we’ve learned a few already, but use any of your past knowledge, or look it up!**
7. **How does the Sanhedrin decide to kill someone because of their actions? What is the process? (look it up if you don’t know)**
8. **What do you think should be done with the terrorists who killed the Fogel family and other terrorists?**
9. **Why? Explain your answers.**
10. **OPTIONAL: What are your thoughts, reactions and feelings to the article below**

FOGEL FAMILY UPDATES: If you are interested in updates of the Fogel family, read here (below is optional reading):

The eldest daughter of the Fogel family, 12 year old Tamar, promised her relatives: "I will be strong and succeed in overcoming this. I understand the task that stands before me, and I will be a mother to my siblings". The  orphaned youngster's words were quoted in the Hebrew daily Yisrael Hayom.   
  
In their home in the town of Neve Tsuf in Samaria, Tsila and Chaim Fogel, parents of Udi, are sitting on low benches for the traditional “shiva” week of mourning  alongside his three brothers and sister.  There is a constant stream of comforters going in and out of the house, VIP's and ordinary citizens from all over Israel, whose hearts go out to the bereft family that lost son, daughter-in-law, and three young grandchildren in a barbaric terrorist slaughter on Friday night.   
  
Chaim Fogel continues to retell the story of terrible hours from 3 a.m. on, when he received the horrific news, drove to Itamar, met his 12 year old granddaughter and then entered the family’s home. The authorities were forced to ask her to tell what she saw when she returned from her youth group activity to find her family’s bloodsoaked bodies at 12:30 a.m. Chaim himself had the heartbreaking task of identifying the bodies.   
  
"We came to take the surviving grandchildren out of the Valley of Death, he said. I don’t wish on anyone in the world the sight I saw. It is horrendous, beyond description, beyond comprehension".   
  
The grandparents recalled the last time they saw Udi, Ruti and the children, a week and a half ago on Saturday night. They celebrated the start of the month of Adar Bet in Itamar, danced, sang and laughed.   
  
"At least they had a taste of Purim", said Udi’s mother Tzila. "I didn’t feel any premonitions. Why should I have thought that I will never see them again? I am not trying to remember if there was anything of that nature in my mind. We were happy together. We have photos of the children playing and happy".   
  
The family is against any personal revenge or taking the law into civilian hands. Their slain children felt the same, they said, unequivocally.   
  
The Ben Yishai home of Ruti’s parents in Jerusalem, where the surviving grandchildren are now, is also crowded with comforters. After the mourning week is over, the family will decide where the children will live. Meanwhile, they are having difficulty in explaining to the youngest child what happened to his parents. "What shall we tell them?" they said. "What does a two-year-old understand when he cries over the loss of his parents? They tell us that children heal quickly, mentally and physically. We hope so".